



# New FWS Sikes Act Guidance

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# Guidance Background

- 1960 The Sikes Act was the guidance
- 1990 INRMPs lacked consistency and effectiveness
- 1997 Integrated plans were required and reports to Congress
- 2000 First FWS guidance
- 2004 INRMPs satisfy critical habitat designation requirement of ESA
- 2004 New FWS guidance needed



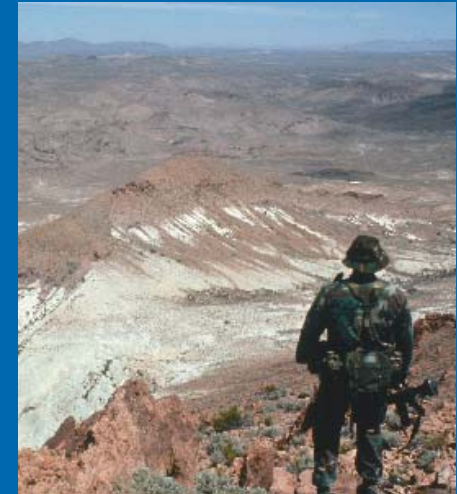
# Sikes Act Challenges



- Managing workload
- Developing quality INRMPs
- Improving INRMP review timeliness
- Streamlining concurrence process



# Addressing Challenges



- Investigate creative funding
- Assist the military in INRMP review
- Participate in INRMP development teams
- Ensure concurrence procedure followed



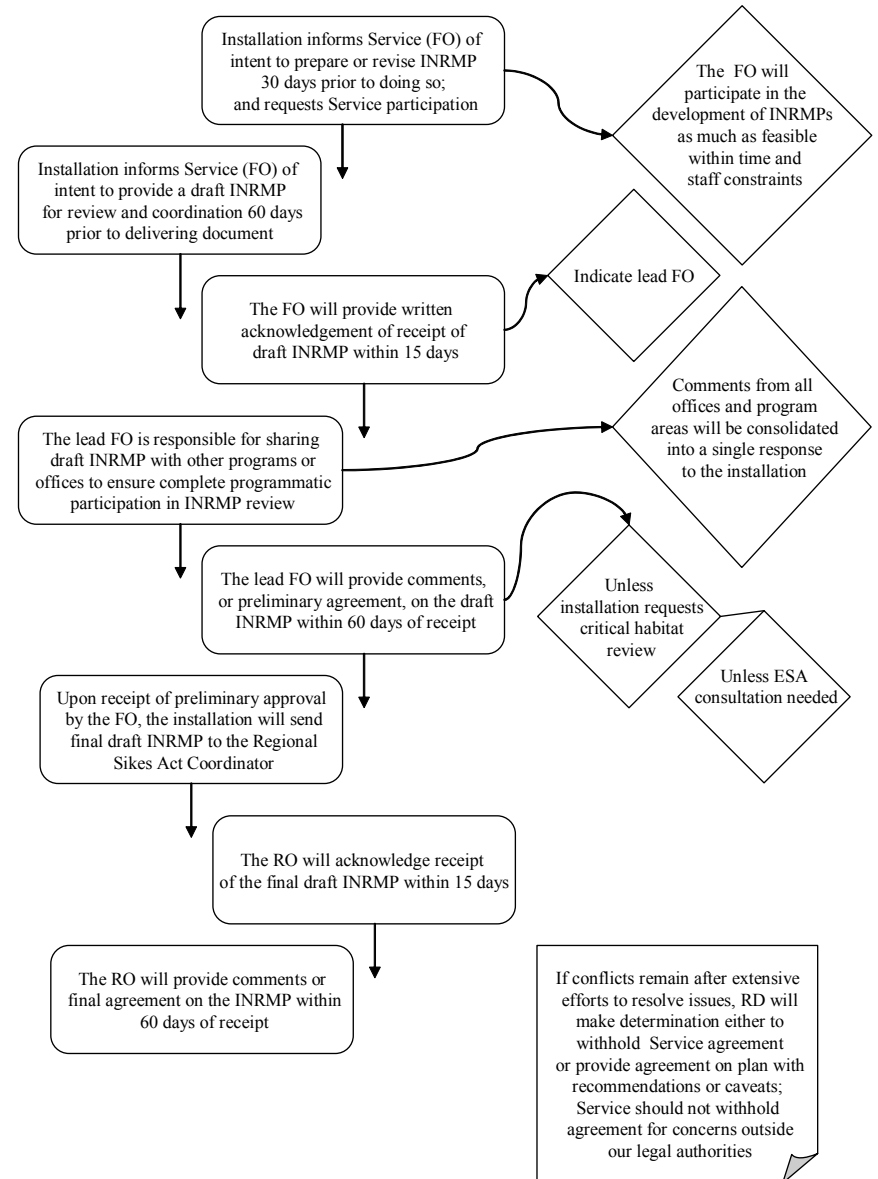
# The Three Criteria

1. The INRMP provides a *benefit* to the species.
2. The INRMP provides certainty that it *will be implemented*.
3. The INRMP provides assurances that the conservation measures in the plan *will be effective*.



# FWS INRMP Review Process

Figure 2. Fish and Wildlife Service Process for INRMP Review and Approval.





# Review Process

- Inform FWS Field Office of intent.
- Provide draft to FWS Field Office.
- Field Office provides comments.
- Provide final draft to Regional Office.
- Regional Office provides comments or concurrence.







# Resources



- DoD guidance
- Resources for Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Implementation: A Handbook for the Natural Resource Manager, DoD 2002
- USFWS Field Office staff



# Summary



- Revised guidance
- Encourage partnerships
- Provide technical assistance



# USFWS Contacts

- National Sikes Act Coordinator
- Regional Office Coordinator
- Field Office Staff

